

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT 7 FRANKFORD AVENUE ANNISTON, ALABAMA 36201-4199

AMSTA-AN-RKS

REVISED 24 January 2002

POLICY STATEMENT #80

SUBJECT: Commander's Policy on Workers' Compensation

- 1. My priority is to provide our workforce a safe and healthful workplace. However, when job-related injuries or illnesses occur, the Workers' Compensation Program provides for both prompt medical treatment and income replacement during recovery.
- 2. The Compensation Program is an important benefit to federal employees. It is also a costly program. Anniston Army Depot's total workers' compensation costs are over five million dollars annually. These costs negatively impact our competitiveness. It is imperative we control compensation costs through active accident prevention efforts and effective claims management processes. The following are key actions required to control compensation costs:
- a. PREVENT ACCIDENTS. Plan safety into every job, task, and program. Correct identified hazards. Investigate accidents and apply corrective measures. Reduce accident rates.
- b. MANAGE CLAIMS. Supervisors and co-workers should stay in touch with injured employees and work with the Compensation Office to ensure people receive timely treatment. Reassure recuperating employees so they know they are wanted and needed.
- c. ACCOMMODATE INJURED EMPLOYEES. The Workers' Compensation Program is not a retirement program. Provide work accommodations for injured employees. Provide productive and rewarding employment for injured employees returning to the workforce.
- d. REPORT FRAUD AND INVESTIGATE QUESTIONABLE CLAIMS. Unfortunately, there are a small percentage of individuals who will falsify compensation claims for their own selfish gain.

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Everyone has a responsibility to report questionable claims and compensation fraud and abuse. I must ensure that these claims are properly investigated and, if necessary, prosecuted in court. Report questionable claims, fraud, and abuse to the Compensation Investigator (extension #6010).

- 3. I expect all in a leadership position to care for our people through words and deeds.
- 4. This policy statement supersedes Policy statement #80 dtd 14 Mar 00.

GERALD BATES Colonel, OD

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